

REMARKS

Claims 12 to 15 are present for purposes of prosecution.

Claims 1 to 11 have been cancelled as set out in the Preliminary Amendment mailed July 23, 2003.

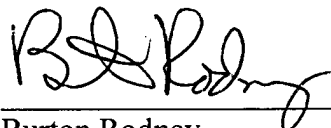
Claims 12 and 13 which make up Group III are elected for purposes of prosecution.

Applicants elect the species of Example 1, namely ethyl 2-benzylacetoacetate.

Claims 14 and 15 have been added to cover the compound of Example 1.

It is believed this application is in good order for examination.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: *March 20, 2006*